

# ☒ **HURRICANE Rita CHECKList** ☒

## ***SUGGESTED ITEMS TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE FROM THE STORM***

- ☐ Water - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- ☐ Food - at least enough for 3 to 7 days; non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices; foods for infants or the elderly; snack foods; non-electric can opener; cooking tools / fuel; paper plates / plastic utensils
- ☐ Blankets / Pillows, etc.
- ☐ Clothing - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes
- ☐ First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs
- ☐ Special Items - for babies and the elderly
- ☐ Toiletries / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes
- ☐ Flashlight / Batteries
- ☐ Radio - Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- ☐ Cash - Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.
- ☐ Keys
- ☐ Toys, Books and Games
- ☐ Important documents in a waterproof container – insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- ☐ Tools – keep a set with you during the storm
- ☐ Vehicle fuel tanks filled
- ☐ Pet care items, including proper identification / immunization records / medications; ample supply of food and water; a carrier or cage; muzzle and leash
  - For more info on pet plans, visit  
[www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/prepare/pet\\_plan.shtml](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/prepare/pet_plan.shtml)

# ***BE PREPARED TO EVACUATE THE AREA***

## **Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Evacuation Map**

<http://www.hcoem.org/Hurricane%20Evacuation%20Map.pdf>

*Source: Houston TranStar*

**Develop a family hurricane preparedness plan before an actual storm threatens your area.** If your family hurricane preparedness plan includes evacuation to a safer location for any of the reasons specified with in this web site, then it is important to consider the following points:

**If ordered to evacuate, do not wait or delay your departure.**

If possible, leave before local officials issue an evacuation order for your area. Even a slight delay in starting your evacuation will result in significantly longer travel times as traffic congestion worsens.

**Select an evacuation destination that is nearest to your home, preferably in the same county, or at least minimize the distance over which you must travel in order to reach your intended shelter location.**

In choosing your destination, keep in mind that the hotels and other sheltering options in most inland metropolitan areas are likely to be filled very quickly in a large, multi-county hurricane evacuation event.

**If you decide to evacuate to another county or region, be prepared to wait in traffic.**

The large number of people in this state who must evacuate during a hurricane will probably cause massive delays and major congestion along most designated evacuation routes; the larger the storm, the greater the probability of traffic jams and extended travel times.

If possible, make arrangements to stay with the friend or relative who resides closest to your home and who will not have to evacuate. Discuss with your intended host the details of your family evacuation plan well before the beginning of the hurricane season.

**If a hotel or motel is your final intended destination during an evacuation, make reservations before you leave.**

Most hotel and motels will fill quickly once evacuations begin. The longer you wait to make reservations, even if an official evacuation order has not been issued for your area or county, the less likely you are to find hotel/motel room vacancies, especially along interstate highways and in major metropolitan areas.

**If you are unable to stay with friends or family and no hotels/motels rooms are available, then as a last resort go to a shelter.**

Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not usually accept pets. Bring your disaster supply kit with you to the shelter. Find Pet-Friendly hotels and motels here at [www.petswelcome.com/milkbone/map.html](http://www.petswelcome.com/milkbone/map.html)

**Make sure that you fill up your car with gas before you leave.**

*Source: National Hurricane Center*

### **Against the Wind – Protecting Your Home from Hurricane Wind Damage**

American Red Cross -

[www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/Agnstwd.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/Agnstwd.pdf)

#### **Know What to Do When a Hurricane WATCH Is Issued**

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for up-to-date storm information.
- Prepare to bring inside any lawn furniture, outdoor decorations or ornaments, trash cans, hanging plants, and anything else that can be picked up by the wind.
- Prepare to cover all windows of your home. If shutters have not been installed, use precut plywood as described above. Note: Tape does not prevent windows from breaking, so taping windows is not recommended.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Recheck manufactured home tie-downs.
- Check batteries and stock up on canned food, first aid supplies, drinking water, and medications.

#### **Know What to Do When a Hurricane WARNING Is Issued**

- Listen to the advice of local officials, and leave if they tell you to do so.
- Complete preparation activities.
- If you are not advised to evacuate, stay indoors, away from windows.
- Be aware that the calm "eye" is deceptive; the storm is not over. The worst part of the storm will happen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction. Trees, shrubs, buildings, and other objects damaged by the first winds can be broken or destroyed by the second winds.
- Be alert for tornadoes. Tornadoes can happen during a hurricane and after it passes over. Remain indoors, in the center of your home, in a closet or bathroom without windows.
- Stay away from flood waters. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way. If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car and climb to higher ground.

*Source: American Red Cross*